

ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE

Italy and elsewhere, hold him as true Pope canonically elected, and he is obeyed as true vicar of Christ and legitimate successor of St. Peter throughout their dominions. Following in the footsteps of St. Peter, he has fixed his residence in Rome; but, although an Italian by birth, he always was, and still is, a Frenchman in will, and is prepared to satisfy the King in all his just and reasonable demands. Already his cause has begun to triumph, as shown by the unanimous decision of the King of the Romans and the electors of the Empire in his favour, and the surrender of Castello Sant' Angelo. The sudden death of the Cardinal Gilles Aycelin de Montaigu, who had opposed him in Avignon, and the incurable illness that has overtaken "the former Cardinal of Geneva, now Antipope," upon whose face a mark of infamy appeared as soon as he deserted him, are to be used as serious arguments on his behalf. I[^]et the King note well how everywhere, even in France, women and children and almost all the lower orders, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit alone, acclaim *Urban*. as true Pope, even as it is written by the Prophet : *Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise*. In so arduous a business, as touching Catholic Faith, let the King listen and give credit to the wise, and not be deceived by flatterers and false counsellors, which would be contrary to his honour and the salvation of his soul, and bring disgrace upon his royal blood and lineage.¹ Once more Raimondo failed. In spite of Urban's protests, Pedro de Luna, who was now as vigorous in the Clementine cause as he had been reluctant to adhere to it, had been honourably received by the King of Aragon at the beginning of the year as legate of Clement, and had secured the imprisonment of Urban's former ambassadors, Perfetto Malatesta, Abbot of

¹ I quote direct from the *Archivio Patieano*, LIV. 33, ff. 132-135. These instructions, which are headed : *Sequuntur ea que Domino Regi Francie sunt exponenda. per . . . pro pane et omni nostri domini Urbani pape sexti*: were first identified by Valois, I. pp. 313-3150. For the sudden death of Cardinal Aycelin, which the Urbanists regarded as a divine judgment, cf. St. Antoninus, III. p. 390. The triviality of the personalities against Clement is quite matched by the arguments used against Urban by Jean le Fevre and other French ambassadors to the Count of Flanders.